

US Patents, its are noted

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

ARDENT, J.

Examiner:

Serial No:

Group Art:

Filed:

Paper No:

For: BATTERY POWERED FOOD STIRRER

Atty Dkt: 13503

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Group Director, Group Art

Sir:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following references were considered in the preparation of the subject application:

Stephens, Patent No. 3,357,685, issued Dec. 12, 1967 discloses a battery-operated stirring unit of the type disclosed in the subject application. In Stephens, a pair of opposed telescoping handles are interconnected by a rack and pinion mechanism for adjusting the span of the device for installation onto vessels of different diameter. The handles have a downturned loop which engage the handle of the vessel. The device utilizes a stirring blade that is asymmetric. This would tend to move the stirring shaft to an off center position. There is no disclosure of means to maintain the handles in position or restrain the handles from expanding. Additionally, it is noted that while the stirrer shaft

is adjustable, adjustment is limited by the compression of the compression spring 35 in the shaft assembly.

Wells, Patent No. 5,332,310, issued July 26, 1994 discloses a self-supporting stirring appliance in which the stirring apparatus is supported by the stirrer blade assembly. It would appear that in order to be used on different sized pans, the blade assembly must be replaceable. The unit is prevented from rotating by a depending handle that engages the handle of the sauce pan. Because of the design in the self-supporting stirrer, the appliance is utilizable on a limited range of cooking vessels. It is apparent that the stirring appliance of Wells is designed for one specific size sauce pan.

Caldwell, Patent No. 5,306,083, issued 26 April 1994 discloses a splash guard and support mount for a mixer. The mixer is apparently of a professional type that is used by processors of food. The reference is relevant to disclose a type of support that contacts the rim of a mixing bowl.

Chauveau, Patent No. 5,152,212, issued 6 October 1992 discloses a reaction vessel having a rotatable shaft that is supported from above and driven by a geared motor. The reference is relevant to disclose an industrial type mixer that uses an overhead drive component, that is an overhead motor driving a shaft that is inserted into a vessel. However, the unit is certainly not

a household type item and has only marginal relevance for the unit devised.

Bravo, Patent No. 4,964,333, issued 23 October 1990 discloses a relatively simple pasteurizing tank having a centrally positioned mixing shaft with blades that allow mixing in an oblong vessel. The motor for the drive shaft is situated under the vessel and is an impractical design for a household unit.

Tome, Jr., Patent No. 4,948,262, issued 14 August 1990 discloses a rotary mixing and straining device that is apparently operated with a conventional drill. The device is hand held and does not appear to have any means for supporting the device on the mixing container. The device is primarily for mixing paints, plasters and other types of construction substances.

Wong, Patent No. 4,820,054, issued 11 April 1989 discloses a stirring mechanism having a vessel with a cover supporting a drive mechanism for a horizontally disposed mixing shaft in the vessel. Although the device is designed for stirring cookie ingredients, it is clearly of a food processor type.

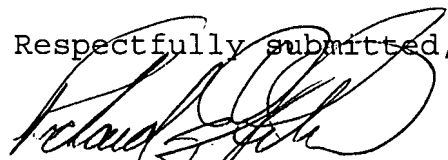
Minifie, et al, Patent No. 4,267,703, issued 19 May 1981 discloses a complicated food processing unit which includes a fan type agitator. The device, again, is of only marginal relevance because it is for industrial food processing.

Takeuchi, Patent No. 4,234,605, issued 18 November 1980 discloses a cooking unit for making bread which is defined as being for household use. However, the mixing unit is mounted in a frame system that enables both the mixing unit and the container to be manipulated during the mixing process. Furthermore, the disclosure has limited application to the device proposed.

Contino, et al, Patent No. 4,214,514, issued 29 July 1980 discloses a cooker that is suitable for restaurant use to prepare pasta. Again, it appears that the mixing unit is driven from below and therefore has little applicability to a household unit or commercial stirrer for different size vessels.

Chapman, Patent No. 2,896,926, issued 28 July 1959 discloses a shaft driven mixing unit that is designed with collapsible blades enabling the device to be inserted in vessels of different types. The patent indicated that the vessel may be driven by an electric motor, however, there does not appear to be any mechanism for the adjustable support of the blade device on containers of different diameter.

Respectfully submitted,



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